

Even though Las Palmas Lodge was the second Lodge in Fresno, it was busy from its start in 1905. In 1910 Clovis Lodge was chartered and in 1916 Center Lodge started. At the May 1918 Stated Meeting, the Secretary read to the Lodge 10 applications for degrees and 2 applications for affiliation. From 1918 through 1922 our Lodge Officers raised, on average, 28 new masons each year. If you take out the two months per year when the Lodge was dark, that is almost three third degrees per month.

The new Masonic Temple which was located at Merced and Van Ness was opened in 1911. The Lodge room was on the 2nd floor and the banquet room was on the 3rd floor. At the Stated Meeting on April 19, 1923 the following took place: "On motion, our Trustee was requested to use his influence on the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Temple Co. to have the seats along the side of the temple padded or made more comfortable."

When a candidate is raised a Master Mason in Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge, he is given a trowel by the Lodge. While this practice has been in place for over 50 years it was not always done. "7/21/1921 The matter of presenting the candidate with a trowel upon becoming a Master Mason was discussed at length but no official action was taken."

At the stated meeting on April 19, 1923 a communication was received from the Grand Master requesting us to furnish our quota of \$950.00 for the Masonic Club House at Berkeley, also an invitation to attend the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the edifice on April 28th. Shortly thereafter a Masonic Club House was built at UCLA. These two facilities remained active for many years. In the early 1950's Grand Lodge decided to erect its own new Temple on Nob Hill in San Francisco. These two Masonic Club Houses were sold and the proceeds used to help construct the new Grand Lodge Temple. At the November, 1953 Stated Meeting, the W. M. read a letter from the Grand Master relative to the new Masonic Memorial Temple and requesting a days work or a days pay towards its erection. By October, 1955 Las Palmas Lodge had raised \$4,000 for the Grand Lodge Masonic Temple in San Francisco. In today's dollars that would be about \$40,000.

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